

Resolved, That the United States Senate—

(1) Commends James Harold English for his exemplary service to the United States Senate and the Nation, and wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude for his long, faithful, and outstanding service.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to James Harold English.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 74—EX-
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE REGARDING CONSIDER-
ATION OF LEGISLATION PRO-
VIDING MEDICARE BENE-
FICIARIES WITH OUTPATIENT
PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE**

Mr. DAYTON (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. RES. 74

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that, by not later than June 20, 2001, the Senate should consider legislation that provides medicare beneficiaries with outpatient prescription drug coverage.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution which expresses the sense of the Senate that the Senate will consider legislation providing prescription drug coverage for senior citizens by June 20, 2001. The resolution does not specify what form of coverage will be considered; rather, it simply commits us to scheduling consideration of this important legislation, and hopefully its passage, in the near future.

Many of us have promised the senior citizens of our states that Congress would enact this kind of program. As you know, last year the 106th Senate was unable to reach agreement on whether to provide prescription drug coverage directly through Medicare, through subsidized insurance policies, or another mechanism. While these disagreements stymied any one measure's passage, it appeared that an overwhelming majority of Senators then supported some form of coverage.

I believe it is imperative that we get a program of financial assistance for hard-pressed senior citizens quickly enacted. While I have my own preference for direct, voluntary coverage under Medicare, I am most concerned that some form of financial assistance be provided to desperate senior citizens in Minnesota and across the country, whose lives are being traumatized by the unaffordable costs of their prescription medicines. Their economic security, their emotional well-being, and their physical health are being threatened, even ruined, by ever-increasing costs over which they have no control.

I respectfully request your support for this resolution when it comes to the floor for a vote.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 75—DESIG-
NATING THE WEEK BEGINNING
MAY 13, 2001, AS "NATIONAL BIO-
TECHNOLOGY WEEK"**

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 75

Whereas biotechnology is increasingly important to the research and development of medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental products;

Whereas public awareness, education, and understanding of biotechnology is essential for the responsible application and regulation of this new technology;

Whereas biotechnology has been responsible for breakthroughs and achievements that have benefited people for centuries and contributed to increasing the quality of human health care through the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs;

Whereas biotechnology is central to research for cures to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart and lung disease, Alzheimer's disease, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and innumerable other medical ailments;

Whereas biotechnology contributes to crop yields and farm productivity, and enhances the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food and other uses that are critical to the agriculture of the United States;

Whereas biotechnology promises environmental benefits including protection of water quality, conservation of topsoil, improvement of waste management techniques, reduction of chemical pesticide usage, production of renewable energy and biobase products, and cleaner manufacturing processes;

Whereas biotechnology contributes to the success of the United States as the global leader in research and development, and international commerce;

Whereas biotechnology will be an important catalyst for creating more high-skilled jobs throughout the 21st century and will lead the way in reinvigorating rural economies and;

Whereas it is important for all Americans to understand the beneficial role biotechnology plays in improving quality of life and protecting the environment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning May 13, 2001, as "National Biotechnology Week"; and
(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today with Senators DODD, CRAPO, KENNEDY, INHOFE, FEINSTEIN, CRAIG, MURRAY, SPECTER, EDWARDS, MIKULSKI, HELMS, BIDEN, and KERRY to introduce a Senate Resolution declaring May 13-20, "National Biotechnology Week."

There have been phenomenal advancements in science over the last few years that are allowing us to improve health care, increase crop yields, re-

duce the use of pesticides, and replace costly industrial processes involving harsh chemicals with cheaper, safer, biological processes. These advancements have occurred due to the hard work and diligence of scientists and researchers in United States, and all around the world, who have spent their lives promoting and perfecting the practice of biotechnology.

Biotechnology is the use of biological processes to solve problems or make useful products. While the use of biological processes for these purposes is not new, the use of recombinant DNA technology and our greater understanding of the role of genetics in our lives have led to the creation of hundreds of products and therapeutic treatments with a wide variety of health, agricultural, and environmental benefits.

Through the analysis of genes and gene products, we will soon be able to forecast disease and create preventative therapies that will drastically reduce the cost of health care by limiting the number of drug treatments necessary and reducing the amount of time patients must be in the hospital. This same technology will enable us to refocus health care on promoting health and preventing disease rather than restoring health in the sick and treating the symptoms and effects of full-blown illness in our nation's health care clinics.

With the publication of the human genome sequence, we are now one step closer to understanding the mechanisms of disease. The identification of which genes are activated, how, and the determination of the functional characteristics of their RNA and protein products are frontiers that remain for our next generation of scientists. However, we are quickly moving towards those frontiers, shedding light on the complex functions of our own bodies that have been shrouded in mystery and speculation for centuries.

In the area of agriculture, the benefits and potential for biotechnology are no less stunning—allowing us to increase the yield of commodities while reducing the use of pesticides. As the world population continues to balloon and the amount of arable land available decreases, we will increasingly look to biotechnology to meet the needs of people everywhere. Researchers in industry and academia are also exploring the possibilities for genetic traits that will yield maximum production, even in the face of inclement weather.

They are also looking for ways to use biotechnology to create novel plants that will provide food that has value added traits such as reduced fat content and increased levels of vitamins and minerals that our diets here in the United States or those in the developing world may be deficient in. The potential for the product known as